

Advisory Committee Background and Overview
General Industry Safety Orders, Section 3657
Elevating Employees with Boom-Type Rough Terrain Forklifts

Background:

This proposed rulemaking is the result of a Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Division) Form 9, Request for Change in Existing Safety Order. The Division requested amendments to Section 3657 with respect to elevating employees on rough-terrain forklifts equipped with extensible booms. In the request, the Divisions states:

“When operated on a firm, level surface a forklift with a variable-reach boom can present a significant overturning hazard, if the work platform is placed too far outside the center of gravity of the forklift itself. But rough-terrain forklifts are most often used on disturbed terrain in the construction industry, mining and forestry. Elevating personnel in this environment presents an additional overturning hazard, if the forklift is not properly leveled before the work platform is raised.”

“While the hazards differ from those associated with conventional forklifts with vertical masts, the safety requirements for elevating employees found in Section 3567 do not take into account these differences. For example, there is no requirement for fall protection equipment to keep employees in a work platform as long as it is provided with guardrails, though fall protection equipment is required for the same hazard in another type of equipment subject to sudden horizontal movement, the boom-type aerial device.”

In drafting proposed amendments, the Division referred to the requirements for elevating personnel in ANSI/ITSDF B56.6-2005, Safety Standard for Rough Terrain Forklift Trucks. If you wish to compare the proposal with the B56.6 standard, the B56.6 standard is available free at: <http://www.itsdf.org/pB56.asp>